



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (15-0440)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaña, Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio,
Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D. and
Commissioner Donald S. Andrews

Excused: Commissioner Anne S. Hill and Commissioner Susan Burton

Staff present: Bolaji Famuyiwa and Jenny Kimbell (15-0441)

Call to Order. (15-0272)

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a
moment of silence.**

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the January 14, 2015 Minutes. (15-0273)

**On motion of Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, seconded by
Commissioner Barbara Bigby, unanimously carried, this item was
approved.**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. Department of Auditor-Controller's (AC) Report for January 21, 2015. (15-0274)

Ms. Michele Day, AC, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed copies and reported on the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report for the month of December 2014:

21 Total calls

- 19 Youth callers
- 2 Adult callers

26 calls related to Collaboration Contacts/Referrals/Information

- 6 DCFS Social Workers
- 2 DCFS Child Protection Hotline (CPH)
- 2 DCFS Ombudsman
- 10 Group Home
- 1 DCFS FFA & Group Home Quality Assurance Section
- 1 Probation Ombudsman
- 2 General Information
- 2 San Bernardino County Ombudsmen

5 Personal Rights

- 1 Contact (Paragon Center)
- 1 Food (Penny Lane)
- 1 Respect (Future Stars)
- 2 School/Community/Religious Services (Rosemary's, Penny Lane)

2 Personal

- 1 Discipline (Penny Lane)
- 1 Physical Abuse Harm (Rosemary's)

9 Other

- 2 CSW Concerns (Penny Lane, David and Margaret)
- 3 Personal Belongings (Children Are Our Future, Los Angeles Youth Network - 2)
- 1 Placement (David & Margaret)
- 2 Staff Concerns (B & I, Los Angeles Youth Network)
- 1 Bicycle riding (Penny Lane)

Visits/Outreach

-
- **San Gabriel Children's Center (3 sites) (Joint visit with Probation Ombudsman)**

3. Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) Report for January 21, 2015. (15-0277)

Ms. Korliss Robinson, Out of Home Care Management Division, DCFS, reported that during the period of December 2014 there were a total of 639 Absent Without Leave (AWOL) and the child abuse hotline received a total of 78 referrals in the following categories:

- **5 Emotional abuse**
- **26 General neglect**
- **25 Physical abuse**
- **21 Sexual abuse**
- **1 At risk, Sibling Abuse**

During the same reporting period 73 referrals were closed/substantiated/evaluated out in the following categories:

- **10 Emotional abuse**
- **20 General neglect**
- **27 Physical abuse**
- **12 Sexual abuse**
- **3 Severe neglect**
- **1 At risk, sibling abuse**

60 referrals substantiated

- **32 Unfounded**
- **21 Inconclusive**
- **7 Substantiated**

12 referrals evaluated out

Ms. Robinson also reported that Mc Kinley group home has been releases from the "Do Not Use" status in December 2014. Ms. Robinson also presented a follow-up report on the number of group home closures during the years of 2010-2014.

4. Internal Services' Department (ISD) Report for January 21, 2015. (15-0276)

Mr. Brian Lear, Building Crafts Superintendent, presented the Commission with a follow-up report regarding Central Juvenile Hall and Inglewood court. Mr. Lear reported that these facilities are handled by the State and ISD only handles County facilities. During the visit they discovered some minor

County issues that they were able to repair. Mr. Lear also informed the Commission that the State contractor is ABM Company and provided the Commission with the contact person.

5. Department of Mental Health's (DMH) Report for January 21, 2015. (15-0275)

Ms. Zoe Trachtenberg, LCSW, Program Director, DMH, reported that DMH is continuing with Child/Family teaming staff development programs at the group homes. The purpose of the program is to empower children, families and others working with children and aid in developing treatment, discharge and transition plans. The next scheduled group homes they will be working are Phoenix House and Hillsides Home for Children.

6. Probation Department's (PD) Report for January 21, 2015. (15-0278)

Ms. Pamela Pease, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Group Home Monitoring and Investigations Unit, Placement Services Bureau, PD, provided the monthly status report of group home AWOLs for the month of December 2014 as follows:

There were 151 AWOLs

- 130 Youth involved
 - 41 Remain AWOL
 - 67 Returned to group homes
 - 21 Youth AWOLed more than once
 - 17 Placed in Juvenile Hall
 - 1 Camp Community Placement
 - 4 Home

During the same period, Ms. Pease also reported on the number of investigations as follows:

2 Child abuse

- 1 unfounded, 1 substantiated

9 Group home investigations

- 2 unfounded, 3 substantiated, 2 partially unfounded/substantiated, 1 inconclusive, 1 pending

6 follow up investigations

- 2 substantiated, 2 unfounded, 1 inconclusive, 1 no finding

Ms. Pease further provided the Commission with a detailed report of the status on group home monitoring, investigations and statistical findings regarding probation youth.

Mr. Michael Varela, Director of Camp Gonzales, reported that Camp Kilpatrick has been completely demolished and is being redesigned. This has been a collaborative effort between both private and public sectors. Mr. Varela also reported that two residents of the Dorothy Kirby Center has completed the Mission College program and earned college credits. Mr. Varela further reported that they are looking forward to working with Los Angeles Trade Technical College at the end of the month.

7. Sheriff's Department (SD) Report for January 21, 2015. (15-0279)

Lieutenant Elier Morejon, Operations Lieutenant, Twin Towers, reported that due to the passing of proposition 47, inmate population and overall custody has decreased from 18,600 to 16,500. Additionally, the use of force has decreased by 25%. Lieutenant Morejon also reported that Twin Towers manages a mental health ward with a population of 3,600 and over 500 of them are in the high observation unit where understaffing is an issue due to the full-time care needed for the mentally ill.

8. Chairperson's Report on various items for January 21, 2015. (15-0280)

Chair Montaña thanked Commissioner Grills for constructing the 2015 goals report.

9. Treasurer's Report for January 21, 2015. (15-0281)

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund remains at \$350.90.

10. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports for January 21, 2015. (15-0282)

Twila Kerr, Chief, Commission Services, addressed the Commission to discuss the Commission's Sunset Review and general operations, which was previously discussed at the November 19, 2014 SBC meeting. Ms. Kerr also informed that the packet will be proposed to the Audit Committee at their February 18, 2015 meeting.

11. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on January 21, 2015. (15-0283)

There was no report presented.

12. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from January 15, 2015 to January 20, 2015. (15-0284)

During the reporting period, the following group homes/facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited:

- Dream Home Care Inc (Gaviota Avenue, Long Beach, CA) on January 15, 2015.
- Fleming and Barnes (Anaheim Place, Long Beach, CA) on January 16, 2015.

Chairperson Montaña visited:

- Fleming and Barnes (Anaheim Place, Long Beach, CA) on January 20, 2015.

Commissioner Andrews visited:

- Children Are Our Future (Keswick Street, Canoga Park, CA) on December 30, 2014.
- Downey Court (Imperial Highway, Downey, CA) on January 8, 2015.
- Turmont Home for Boys (Turmont Street, Carson, CA) on January 12, 2015.
- Children Are Our Future (Lamarsh Street, Northridge, CA) on January 20, 2015.

Commissioner Bigby visited:

- Crescenta Valley Station (Briggs Avenue, La Crescenta, CA) on January 14, 2015.
- San Gabriel Children's Center (South Enid Avenue, Azusa, CA) on January 15, 2015.

Vice Chairperson Bacio visited:

- Maryvale (Graves Avenue, Rosemead, CA) on January 20, 2015.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

13. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (15-0285)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

- 14.** Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (15-0286)

Mr. Alan Henry, Community Care Licensing, addressed the Commission and distributed handouts.

Adjournment

- 15.** Adjournment for the meeting of January 21, 2015. (15-0287)

There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of January 21, 2015 at 12:32 p.m.